

West Virginia: Fires at a Glance

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009



Did you know?

- **In FY 2009, West Virginia's fire departments reported a total of 9,576 fires throughout the state, including:**
 - 4,082 building fires (includes 3,208 residential)
 - 1,466 vehicle fires (passenger, RV's, off-road, heavy equipment, etc.)
 - 3,619 outdoor fires (includes controlled burns)
- **Leading causes of fires:**
 - Cooking
 - Heating
 - Incendiary (Arson)
 - Open flames/embers
 - Electrical distribution and appliances
- Most fires occurred between 1:00 and 10:00 p.m., when people tend to be at home.
- Most fires occurred between November and April, during holidays, and when heating appliances tend to be most in use.
- **Total estimated loss from fire: \$130,747,938**
- **Smoke detectors in residential fires:**
 - Detectors present in only 26% of residential fires
 - No detectors present in 33% of residential fires
 - Undetermined detector presence in 41% of residential fires
- **Smoke detector operation in residential fires:**
 - Detectors operated properly in 64% of the fires where smoke detectors were present.
 - Detectors failed to operate in 14% of the residential fires where they were present.

***Information compiled through National Fire Information Reporting System by:
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